



METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

And the “winner” is...

After months of being held hostage by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Peasley Canyon and three other areas were relieved to hear South Seattle was chosen as the primary location of the sex offender housing site.

While I am monitoring Seattle’s legal challenge, I, too, was relieved by the State’s decision. I am committed to working with our State Legislators to ensure that Peasley Canyon or any other residential area is not hijacked by another state decision.

How many families were unable to sell their houses, or had to sell their homes at a loss because the State’s decision was hanging over their head? Whether it is a one bedroom or multi-unit residence, a home should be a castle to live in, not a fortress in which to hide from potential sexually deviant predators.

When the state identified Peasley Canyon among other sites in early December, 2002, you may recall that I organized the first public meeting at Lakeland Elementary School on December 14, 2002. Over 1,000 people showed up, sending a public message that we would not stand by and allow our families to be put in harm’s way by the State of Washington.

In order that we are not blindsided again by the State, or any other public agency, considering the placement of an unwanted public facility in our community, I encourage you to contact me using the enclosed memorandum if you hear of any large public land purchases or inquiries. My office will investigate the land acquisition, and hopefully avoid the pitfalls of the last process (see attached).

The Seattle P-I recently reported that the state could not verify the addresses of 1,753 convicted sex offenders, which is about 10-percent of the state’s total. I am contacting all of the State Legislators in our region to review current state legislation, and to consider potential legislation and collaborative action to protect residential neighborhoods from potential unwanted state action.

We succeeded in 2003 because enough citizens came together . . . we must continue to be vigilant, and we must work together to protect our residential neighborhoods.

With best wishes,

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer
October 14, 2003